

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 29 and 30 without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter and amend claims 16-20 and 25 by this amendment as follows:

1 1. (Previously once Amended) A portable memory device for a USB-supporting data
2 processing system, the memory device comprising:
3 a USB connector for being connected to a USB port of the data processing system;
4 an integrated circuit memory for writing/reading data;
5 a connector cover protecting the USB connector from damage, the connector cover capable
6 of sliding automatically backwards upon insertion of the portable memory device into said USB port
7 exposing the USB connector; and
8 a USB interface coupled between the USB connector and the memory, for interfacing the
9 memory with the data processing system.

1 2. (Original) The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory is a nonvolatile
2 semiconductor memory.

3.(Canceled)

1 4.(Original) The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory device is worked as a
2 portable memory device of the data processing system.

1 5.(Original) The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory device supports a plug and
2 play function, and the USB connector is capable of being connected and separated to/from the USB
3 port of the data processing system while the data processing system is powered on.

1 6.(Original) The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory device stores a security
2 information.

1 7.(Original) The memory device of claim 6, wherein the data processing system stores a
2 security information to verify an authorized user.

1 8.(Original) The memory device of claim 7, wherein the data processing system starts to work
2 when the security information of the memory device is matched with the security information of the
3 data processing system.

9-15. (Canceled)

1 16. (Currently Amended) A method [[for]] of securing data on a hard disk of a host
2 computer, comprising ~~the steps of:~~
3 applying power to said host computer;
4 determining [[if]] when a universal serial bus (USB) device is connected to said host

5 computer;
6 comparing security information in said host computer with security information in said USB
7 device; and
8 enabling a hard disk drive of said host computer [[if]] when said security information in said
9 USB device matches said security information in said host computer, said method being absent
10 entering of security information by a user.

1 17.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of performing
2 a power on self test when power is applied to said host computer.

1 18.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of booting
2 said host computer by an operating system after enabling said hard disk drive.

1 19.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of displaying
2 an error message if said USB device is not connected to said host computer.

1 20.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of displaying
2 an error message if said security information in said host computer does not match said security
3 information in said USB device.

1 21. (Previously added) The device of claim 1, wherein backwards is a direction that is

2 opposite to a direction of insertion of said memory device into said USB port.

1 22. (Previously added) The device of claim 1, further comprising a spring coupled between
2 said connector cover and a housing of the device, said spring being biased to push said cover away
3 from said housing to cover said integrated circuit memory when no pressure is applied to said spring.

1 23.(Previously added) The device of claim 22, said spring being compressed upon
2 attachment of said portable memory device to said USB port.

1 24.(Previously added) The device of claim 1, said cover having a ridge protruding from a
2 side portion of said cover that engages a concave groove in said housing enabling said cover to slide
3 forwards and backwards with respect to said housing.

1 25. (Currently Amended) A method [[for]] of securing a host computer, comprising the
2 steps of:

3 applying power to the host computer;
4 determining whether a USB security device is attached to a USB port on the host;
5 displaying an error message when it is determined that the USB security device is not
6 attached to the USB port of the host;
7 reading a password from the USB security device and comparing the read password with a
8 password stored in the host;

9 displaying an error message when the password on the USB security device does not match
10 the password stored in the host and preventing the host from being booted when the password on the
11 USB security device does not match the password stored in the host; [[and]]

12 booting up the host computer only when the USB security device is attached to the USB port
13 of the host and only when the password stored in the USB security device matches the password
14 stored in the host computer; and

15 attaching the USB security device to the USB port of the host computer prior to when power
16 is applied to the host, said attaching step comprising automatically sliding a cover on said USB
17 security device backward in a direction opposite to a direction of inserting the USB security device
18 into the USB port when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host computer.

1 26. (Previously added) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of enabling a
2 hard disk drive in the host only when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host
3 and only when the password stored in the USB security device matches the password stored in the
4 host computer.

1 27. (Previously added) The method of claim 25, said booting step comprising loading an
2 operating system in the host.

1 28. (Previously added) The method of claim 25, said reading and comparing step being
2 performed prior to when the host computer is booted up.

1 Claims 29 - 30 (Canceled)

1 31. (Previously added) The method of claim 25, the USB security device comprising:
2 a USB connector for being connected to the USB port of the host computer;
3 an integrated circuit memory for writing/reading data;
4 a connector cover protecting the USB connector from damage, the connector cover capable
5 of sliding automatically backwards upon insertion of the portable memory device into said USB port
6 exposing the USB connector; and
7 a USB interface coupled between the USB connector and the memory, for interfacing the
8 memory with the data processing system.

1 32. (Previously added) The portable memory device of claim 1, the portable memory device
2 being used to securing a host computer according to a process comprising the steps of:
3 applying power to the host computer;
4 determining whether a portable memory device is attached to a USB port on the host;
5 displaying an error message when it is determined that the portable memory device is not
6 attached to the USB port of the host;
7 reading a password from the portable memory device and comparing the read password with
8 a password stored in the host;
9 displaying an error message when the password on the portable memory device does not

10 match the password stored in the host and preventing the host from being booted when the password
11 on the portable memory device does not match the password stored in the host; and
12 booting up the host computer only when the portable memory device is attached to the USB
13 port of the host and only when the password stored in the portable memory device matches the
14 password stored in the host computer.